

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of all pending claims (including withdrawn claims) will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-37 (Cancelled)

38. (Currently Amended) ~~Miniaturised~~Miniaturized relay comprising:

- a first condenser plate,
- a second condenser plate facing said first condenser plate, in which said second plate is smaller than or equal to said first plate,
- an intermediate space,
- a conductive element arranged in said intermediate space, said conductive element being a detached part ~~capable of moving~~for movement freely along the intermediate space ~~and being suitable for effecting a movement across said intermediate space from~~between a first end of said intermediate space, defining a first zone, ~~te~~and a second end of said intermediate space, defining a second zone, ~~and vice versa,~~ said movement depending on voltages present in said first and second condenser plates, where said first condenser plate is arranged in said first zone and said second condenser plate is arranged in said second zone,
- a third condenser plate arranged in said second zone, in which said third condenser plate is smaller than or equal to said first condenser plate, and in which said second and third condenser plates are, together, larger than said first condenser plate
- a first contact point of an electric circuit, a second contact point of said electric circuit, in which said first and second contact points define first stops,
- ~~wherein, in which when~~ wherein said conductive element is ~~suitable for entering into contacts with said first stops and in which~~ suitable for entering into contacts with said first stops ~~and~~ and ~~when in contact with said first stops, and~~
- ~~wherein~~ wherein the closing of the ~~external electric circuit can be guaranteed even occurs even~~ though the conductor element remains at a voltage in principle unknown, which will be forced by the ~~external~~electric circuit that is closed.

39. (Currently Amended) Relay according to claim ~~38~~71, wherein said first contact point

is ~~between~~in said second zone ~~and said conductive element~~.

40. (Currently Amended) Relay according to claim ~~38~~39, wherein said second contact point is ~~likewise~~ in said second zone.

41. (Previously Presented) Relay according to claim 38, further comprising:
a fourth condenser plate arranged in said first zone, in which said first condenser plate and said second condenser plate are equal to each other, and said third condenser plate and said fourth condenser plate are equal to each other.

42. (Previously Presented) Relay according to claim 41, wherein said first, second, third and fourth condenser plates are all equal to each other.

43. (Previously Presented) Relay according to claim 41, further comprising:
a fifth condenser plate arranged in said first zone and a sixth condenser plate arranged in said second zone, in which said fifth condenser plate and said sixth condenser plate are equal to each other.

44. (Currently Amended) Relay according to claim 43 ~~further comprising~~wherein:
six condenser plates are arranged in said first zone and six condenser plates are arranged in said second zone.

45. (Currently Amended) Relay according to claim ~~38~~71, further comprising:
a second stop ~~between~~in said first zone ~~and said conductive element~~.

46. (Currently Amended) Relay according to claims ~~38~~71, further comprising:
a third contact point arranged ~~between~~in said first zone ~~and said conductive element~~, in which said third contact point defines a second stop, such that said conductive element closes a second electric circuit when in contact with said second contact point and said third contact point.

47. (Currently Amended) Relay according to claim 46, wherein said conductive element comprises a hollow cylindrical part which defines an axis, in the interior of which is housed said second contact point, and a flat part which protrudes from one side of said radially hollow cylindrical part and which extends in the direction of said axis, in which said flat part has a

height, measured in the direction of said axis, which is less than ~~the~~a height of said cylindrical part measured in the direction of said axis.

48. (Currently Amended) Relay according to claim 46, wherein said conductive element comprises a hollow parallelepipedic part which defines an axis, in the interior of which is housed said second contact point, and a flat part which protrudes from one side of said radially hollow parallelepipedic part and which extends in the direction of said axis, in which said flat part has a height, measured in the direction of said axis, which is less than ~~the~~a height of said parallelepipedic part, measured in the direction of said axis.

49. (Previously Presented) Relay according to claim 38, further comprising:
a third contact point and a fourth contact point arranged between said first zone and said conductive element, in which said third contact point and fourth contact point define second stops, such that said conductive element closes a second electric circuit when in contact with said third contact point and fourth contact point.

50 (Currently Amended)- Relay according to claim 38, wherein assemblies of said condenser plates are each arranged in each of said first and second zones to have a central symmetry with respect to a center of symmetry, and in which said center of symmetry is superposed to the center of masses of said conductive element.

51. (Currently Amended) Relay according to claims 38, wherein an assembly of said condenser plates is arranged in each of said first and second zones and has central asymmetry, thus generating a moment of forces with respect to ~~the~~a center of masses of said conductive element.

52. (Currently Amended) Relay according to claim 49, wherein between said first zone and said second zone there extends two lateral walls, in which there is play between said lateral walls and said conductive element, said play being sufficiently small so as to geometrically prevent said conductive element from simultaneously entering into contact with a contact point of the group formed by said first and second contact points and with a contact point of the group formed by said third and fourth contact points.

53. (Previously Presented) Relay according to claim 38, wherein said conductive element has rounded external surfaces.

54. (Currently Amended) Relay according to claim ~~53~~38, wherein said conductive element is cylindrical.

55. (Currently Amended) Relay according to claim ~~53~~38, wherein said conductive element is spherical.

56. (Currently Amended) Relay according to claim 38, wherein said conductive element has an upper face and a lower face, said upper and lower faces being perpendicular to said movement of said conductive element, and said at least one lateral face, ~~in which said lateral face has~~ having slight protuberances.

57. (Previously Presented) Relay according to claim 38, wherein said conductive element is hollow.

58. (Previously Presented) Relay according to claim 38, wherein said first condenser plate has a surface area which is equal to or double the surface area of said second condenser plate.

59. (Currently Amended) Relay according to claim 38, wherein at least one of said condenser plates is, simultaneously, one of said contact points.

60. (Previously Presented) Use of a relay according to claim 38, as an accelerometer.

61. (Previously Presented) Use of a relay according to claim 38, as an accelerometer in airbags.

62. (Previously Presented) Use of a relay according to claims 38, as a tiltmeter.

63. (Previously Presented) Use of a relay according to claim 38, as a detector of Coriolis forces.

64. (Previously Presented) Use of a relay according to claim 38, as a pressure sensor.

- 65. (Previously Presented) Use of a relay according to claim 38, as a microphone.
- 66. (Previously Presented) Use of a relay according to claim 38, as a flow sensor.
- 67. (Previously Presented) Use of a relay according to claim 38, as a temperature sensor.
- 68. (Currently Amended) Use of a relay according to claim 38, for ~~an~~ acoustic applications.
- 69. (Previously Presented) Use of a relay according to claim 38, as a gas sensor.
- 70. (Previously Presented) Use of a relay according to claim 38, as a magnetic field sensor.
- 71. (New) Relay according to claim 38, further comprising a substrate that defines, with the first, second and third condenser plates and the first stops, the intermediate space, and conductive element's movement is in a direction perpendicular to the substrate.